

The Present

STATE

OF

ENGLAND,

Set Forth in a

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

Jehu and Jeroboam.

Deus nobis Fide artia fecit.

L O N D O N,

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Pater-Noster-Row, 1681.

TO THE
READER.

Poor England resembles a Ship Tossed with many
Turbulent Waves, perpetually in danger of Ship-
wrack, greatly to be pityed, in that Rome and
Hell Combine against its Felicity, with respect to its
Religion and Property; in the one, to over-throw God's
Honour; in the other, to put a period to our Prosperity,
desiring to make us miserable in the loss of our Estates; or
which is Worse, in the loss of our Souls: In the one, aim-
ing to Divest us of our Rights; in the other, to Deprive
us of our Salvation: Our Estates they would have, but
they will not abate of our Souls in the Bargain. But to
our good, has the Mercy of God Disappointed them, and
Preserved us, notwithstanding their Plots cunningly laid
and devised on the one part to Destroy us; but failing
there, on the other to Defame and Incense us, in Wronging
the Presbyterians with False Accusations, and endeavour-
ing to Incense us against them with Unjust Prejudices.

A 2

But

To the Reader.

But both have Thriven alike, viz. The one being discovered before put in Execution, and so hindred; the other detected timely, and so quashed; the like fortune hath besel their further Designs. But what effect these growing Conspiracies may produce, we know not; our Enemies being restless to Disturb and Subvert us; and our Escape seeming Dangerous and Doubtful: But however our Industry on our part is required, success in Gods hands alone is; we must therefore work in doing our part with Diligence, and wait on God with Patience; for at present our state looks darksome, as it is endeavoured clearly to be Illustrated in this following Dialogue, between Jeroboam, an Ill-wisher to our Good and Prosperity; and one inclining to that Party that would destroy us, in emptying us of our present Enjoyments, and willing to make us Sin, in endeavouring to Proselyte us to themselves: The other is Jehu, one standing for the Nations Good, though it may be on a rotten bottom, affecting that in Notion, which he will not stand to in Reality; the Prolocutors representing the present miserable state of the Nation; to wit, either inclined to Popery, or but Talking Protestants; the one which is professedly Naught, the others but seemingly Differing; the Protestants in corde, in their hearts, such are most certainly very scarce.

THE

The Present
State of England,
 Set forth in a
DIALOGUE
 BETWEEN
Jehu & Jeroboam.

Jehu, **H**onest *Jerry*, how dost?
Jerry, Oh honest! very
 good; but I'll assure thee, I am
 not over-loaden therewith:

But what News? Ha!

Jeh. Ah, sad News indeed! Poor *England* is
 Circumvented with Plots and Projects, for its
 Ruin; *Rome*, *France*, *Hell* and *Devils*, Combine
 to subvert its Prosperity!

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Jer.

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Jer. Come, come; with all thy whyning Hypocrisy, pretending a sincerity of kindness for thy Country, but in very Truth intending no other than a narrow Spirit and Design, for thy self, in either being counted what thou art not, or have that confer'd on thee which thou never deserved'st.

Jeh. Well mayst thou be called *Jeroboam*; for as on the one hand thou revilstest me, so on the other, thou art an irresistible incentive to my Passion; in Reviling me, thou art evil in stirring up my Wrath, thou thereby art a cause of my doing Ill; I tell thee my Passion against thee is so boiling; that could I find in my Heart to offer thee Violence.

Jer. Do thy worst; but I have touch'd thee to the quick, thou art struck in the right Vein of thy odious Hypocrisy, intending all *Jehu* does, is for *Jehu's* Fame, Promotion, or Advantage.

Jeh. But *Jerry*, be as slight and frivolous as thou wilt, in very Truth, I must tell thee, that *England*, at this present, is in no good Condition.

Jer. Pish, Pish, Heed not every pragmatick Prater, that hardly any more than a *Joyn-
Stool*

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Stool, understands the sentiments himself delivers, with respect to the safety or the danger of the Nation.

Jeh. A way Jerry, with that thy scurrilous Asper-
sion against our Sagaces, even those who are Pru-
dent in foreseeing the evil that is coming upon us; be it
known to thee, that our Nation is not so emp-
ty (as thou falsely wouldst persuade me it is) of
Men able to give out prudent Sentiments of the
Aspect of Affairs. Nay, things look so gloo-
my, as that an half-Eyed and witted Person
may perceive.

Jer. Ha, Ha, Every prating Coxcomb, ha-
ving no more Wit, than my Father's old Cap,
tating in a Coffee-House, must be counted Wise
even to a States-man, though speaking as much
Sense and Reason, as a Cobler or Carter, or as
much as some such Fellows are usually Endow-
ed with: Nay, some of them, it may be, of
no higher, (at least-wise, not much higher) Fun-
ction.

Jeh. You do not well, I'll assure you, thus
to scoff at every one Concerned at the present
imminent Danger of our Nation; every one so
concerned and speaking, is not a Fool.

Jer. And I believe, no Conjuror.

Jeh.

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Jeh. But because I am well acquainted with your thwarting Temper; waving this Argument, let us between our selves seriously conſider, and conſider for our Satisfaction, or at leaſt wiſe my own, if thou art abſolutely unconcerned, whether or no thy Native-Country proſpers, or Groans under the moſt burthening Grievances.

Jer. *Jehu*, I am perſwaded, that ſhould be greatly regarded by them in Place and Authority, whoſe incumbent Duty it is: But knowing thee to love Applauſe, and active in any thing whereby thy Itch of Ambition may be gratified; pray go forward in thy Diſcourſe.

Jeh. Thoſe in Place, I grant herein to be concerned; therein thou ſpeakeſt honeſtly: But however, we are not thereby ingaged to an abſolute Unconcernedneſs, whether or no we Flourish or Decay. And as to thy heavy and injurious Loads, which thou impoſeſt on me, I tell thee, Thou art here thy ſelf guilty of that Guile, whereof thou ſo much accuſeſt me; in-aſmuch as thou (I am perſwaded) art not willing to touch as much as one of the leaſt of them, with one of thy Fingers.

Jer.

(9)

Jer. Say'st thou so, then in *plain English* I tell thee, take away applause, and the bottom of thy Zeal falls out, and then it will be cold, *Jehu*; but *Jehu* I know thee, in vain is it for thee to endeavour its Covert by Lying, thou greatly affectest Ostentation, it is the very Basis of thy actions; thou art *Cock-a-Hoop* for this Man, that Man, this Party, the other; against this, for that; not for that such an one is an honest Man, and endeavours the Nations good in the preservation of Religion, to which Hypocritically so much thou pretendest, and makest a noise about; But that *Jehu*, *Jehu* may have Acclamations; *Oh Jehu* is an honest Man, and a good Protestant!

Jeh. Come, leave thy wonted flouting, and severe censuring, by looking into thy own Bosom, to see whether no vain Glory or Ostentation there dwelleth.

Jer. Say on, what thou hast in mind to speak, feign would'st be at something whereby self-conceit in thee may be tickled, but know that I'll be none of thy Flatterers.

Jeh. Well, but dost not think *England* to be brought to a low Ebb? dost not think it to be in danger of Popery?

B

Jer.

Jer. Do not talk of Danger of Popery, many mens brains are at a low ebb, and so in danger of Folly.

Jeh. Why certainly thou wilt not make proclamation of thy self to be such a Villain, with this discourse thou entertainest thy Tory Companions, but take heed to what thou now sayest, or be it at thy Peril.

Jer. Pish Simpleton, I deny not a Popish Plot in general, but I believe we make more noise and stir than needs, I cannot think the Papists in general to be so treacherous, therefore why should we be so obstreperous?

Jeh. I know thee well to be a decliner to that wicked Party, but this would I demand; if in very deed their intentions of subverting the Government, and extirpating the Protestant Religion, are clearly manifested, and that by an harmonious testimony of several before engaged in their cursed Designs, and not holding a Correspondence together at that time, yet not disagreeing in their Depositions, but unanimously confessing the main Body of the Papists herein to be concerned?

Jer.

Jer. What man! Every Papist in *England, Away, Away*, be not so credulous.

Jeh. Some Papists I exempt, in saying the main body of them, some it may be might be too poor to be trusted.

Jer. Admitting this, dost not think the *Presbyterians* would easily be induced to be their Coadjutors?

Jeh. No, by no means, although falsely and wickedly accused; which Sham-Plots have so plainly and perspicuously been detected, insomuch that nothing remains to be said, but *Qui vult decipi diciatur*; who is more Blind than he who will not see? who shall give heed to that wicked Woman *Mrs. Cellier*, or rather Devil Incarnate? Who shall believe her for the sake of the Bloody Blader? who shall give heed to such a piece of Jesuited antiquity, a peerless Match for Impudence and Confidence?

Jer. Who shall give heed to thee, so opprobriously defaming? hath this Woman ever injured thee?

Jeh. Yes, she hath me, inasmuch as she contrived the subversion of the Nation in ge-

neral, and so consequently of me, as I am a particular Member thereof.

Jer. Ay, thou art a special Member thereof, no more caring what becomes of it, than my Dog, so thy fat Carkass be not starved, nor thy full Coffers exhausted.

Jeh. Oh most uncharitable Wretch, wouldst afford me no better Comparison than that of a Dog, in my love to my Countrey, loving nothing but my Interest, and what tends to its promotion? but *Jeroboam*, I know thee to be wicked; tell me I pray thee what is thy Opinion of famous Mr. *Le-S*—.

Jer. Oh Mr. *Le-S*— a worthy Gentleman!

Jeh. Of what, of a Rope?

Jer. Not as much as thy self.

Jeh. Mr. *Le-S*— and such as he is, are the Rats and Mice of the Kingdom, disturbing and devouring; but he has lately defended himself from the Charge of being either Papist or Jesuit, but let his Works Praise him.

Jer. Ay, and they do it better than thy Prating praiseth thee; But being we are a
little

little engaged in discourse, Prithee what dost hear of a Popish Successor? there is a mighty noise about it.

Jeh. Ay, and no wonder, for if to such an one we were in Subjection, how could we expect our Liberty and Property to be in safety?

Jer. *Ha!* Dost not think him to be endowed with Nature, to love others, or at least himself, to have a Prosperous and Quiet Reign over peaceable Subjects, though in Religion differing?

Jeh. No verily, do I not believe any such thing.

Jer. But what if he will Promise it?

Jeh. I will believe him, so far as I'll credit any Man on the Word of a Papist.

Jer. Why Sir, a Papist; what has no Papist, dost think, either Truth, Conscience, or any thing in him looking like Religion, or Moral honesty?

Jeh. Ay, Ay, Religion and Honesty too, abundance of it they have, (that is) such as it is : their Religion instructs them to Ruine, Kill, Massacre Protestants under the name
of

of Hereticks ; and their Honesty is to be faithfull amongst themselves, in their damnable Plots contrived in order hereunto, though it be managed with the vilest Perjuries, Lyes, most false Equivocations, and wretched't Protestations, and that even at the hour of Death, in Vindication of the Church *Catholic*.

Jer. Hie, Perjuries, Lies, Equivocations, and false Protestations ! and that when in *Punctum Mori*, at the hour of Death, just entring another World, and so in themselves perswaded, and to us professing ; and Christians too, though in a different Party from thy self, would at that solemn hour pawn their Consciencies, and relinquish their hopes of a better Life ; what art Mad to talk thus ? Dost not think them then *bona fide* to declare the very truth ?

Jeh. Come Jerry, be not Rash and Foolish, in the one by thinking to deceive me, in the other by aiming to Vindicate them ; are not we well acquainted, that whatever is by them spoken in defence of their Church is Meritorious, and any Discovery against it is damnable, according to their Religious and
Honest

Honest Doctrine ? though in very Truth their accounted Merit is Damnation, and a faithfull Discovery may through Gods Grace be a means of opening a door for Mercy.

Jer. But with all thy sence, prithee what expectations of Mercy could these men pretend to, thus dying, as thou with all thy Charity judgest ?

Jeh. Only depending on a Popish Dispensation, which as they say, gives them Absolution, as doubtlesly did *Harcourt, Whitebread, Gavan, Turner, Fenwick, &c.* and my Lord *Stafford* since.

Jer. Pish, a mad Fellow art thou, to feed thy Fancy with such prejudicial imaginations ; what dost not think them to be men of greater sence and Prudence than so ?

Jeh. No, it's well enough known, notwithstanding all their Sence, Reason, Wisdom and Prudence, that they were Members of the Romish *Communion*, embracing the wicked Tenents of that Church ; and that some of them were *Priests* and *Jesuits*, to whom it's natural to Equivocate, and by practice can manage it with the greatest Facility.

Jer.

Jer. Thou art so Obstinate, I know not what to say to thee; for me to go to perswade thee contrary to thy received Opinion, were to perswade thee to believe thou art not a man in substance and proportion, or that when thou shewest thy folly, to perswade thee to believe that therein thy self art not wise; two arguments of equal difficulty to manage; being thy fears are so great of Popery, prithee tell me what thy Thoughts are concerning the *Blazing-Star* which lately appeared; does it not prelude some considerable event shortly to follow it?

Jeh. Yea certainly.

Jer. And may not that be good as well as bad? may it not signifie that the *D.* of *Y.* shall reign many Years King of *England*, in case he survives his Majesty that now Governs, whom we all ought to pray for, that his Reign may be prosperous and long.

Jeh. Ay Jerry, I believe that it may betoken such a thing as thou speakest of, but not before his Head and Face becomes as bright as the Star, and his Beard as long and full; the first to signifie his bright Illustrious
Inno-

Innocency, and then the last follows in course, viz. his long reaching Dominions and Rule.

Jer. Well for all thy Scoffs, I tell thee plainly that thou art a Rascal, digest it as well as thou canst, I believe for thy part, if thou livedst under a Popish Government sooner for thy part wouldst Turn than Burn.

Jeh. Burn Popery, I am perswaded if ever it comes into these Nations, it will not be, *Will you turn Papist, or have your Carkass Fried?* No, but to Hack, Hew, Cut in pieces by sudden Massacring.

Jer. And how dost think this will come to pass?

Jeh. Nay, how should I tell? certainly by our remifness, and our Enemies Vigilancy; for they Watch for harm, whilst we sleep in security as we vainly imagine.

Jer. What is requisite in Order to our Enemies disappointment, in thy Opinion, prithee?

Jeh. Certainly, to understand our own Maladies, to slight our Enemies Smiles, not to suppose them to rest, because they are not just now bustling.

Jer. Well, come we shall have something now.

Jeh. And well too, thou mayest hear me if thou pleasest.

Jer. Go on.

Jeh. If we understand not our Maladies, we can't apply suitable Remedies, and so our Disease may grow incurable; now the greatest Malady infecting *England* is Popery, which would be brought in; the effectual way of suppressing thereof, is indisputably by the unanimous consent of King and Parliament, together with good Officers, and Ministers of State being Elected, and the Cankered Popish turned out.

The other way is to slight our Enemies Smiles; better is the Frown of a Friend than the Smile of an Enemy; an Enemy smiles on us with his Forehead, but Murthers us in the *interim* in his Heart; his Smiles are Deceit and ruine, in that he cunningly looks like a Friend, that the better he may exert his Enmity; hence many are deceived, and most infallibly ruined; this is the reason why his intended Mischief appears not, though laid open never so clearly, by reason it is cloaked under a confident Smile, and pretension to Amity,

Amity, when in Reality there is nothing but an intention of Enmity, and the forest and grievous hurt.

By our resting from our Vigilancy against them because not alwayes Stirring, is dangerous; for doubtless they lye slumbering that we may fall asleep, and thereby with the greater advantage they arise and devour us: But it is time for me to depart, I would have had some more discourse with thee, but the time permits not.

Jer. Why, art Departing? then I say Farewell Mr. Statesman.

Jeh. Well, and I say, pray be not such a professed Enemy to thy Self, Nation, and all: Do not make it thy business to run about to Disparage the Kings Evidences, to make void the Plot, to render it as a Ridicule; for I tell thee, *England* is in no good Condition, I fear.

Jer. And so I believe thy Brains are, which run a wooll-gathering, to I know not what.

Jeh.

Jeh. Some other things I had to say to thee in our Discourse, but I wave them; next time we meet, we may (by Divine leave) Discourse further; at the present, Farewell.

Jer. God b'w'ye.

FINIS.
